Kept Under Lock and Key in the State Department at Washington-Its History Older Than the Constitution—Design for Reverse Has Never Been Cut.

WASHINGTON, May 9 .- In a corner of one of the offices of the State Department, in a wooden case which is kept almost constantly locked, is the Great Seal of the United States. It is called the Great Seal, but it is in fact the only seal of the United States as a nation among other nations.

The history of the Great Seal is older than that of the Constitution itself. It begins on the very day that the Declaration of Independence was read and adopted by the Continental Congress. It was 2 o'clock on the afternoon of July 4, 1776, when that event took place, and the bellman in the old Philadelphia State House was still jangling the Liberty Bell as hard as he could when the delegates to the Congress passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That Dr. Franklin, Mr. J. Adams and Mr. Jefferson be a committee to prepare a device for a seal of the United States of America.

There really was no United States of America then, but the patriots intended that there should be, and they proposed to be ready with the proper appurtenances. The Constitution was not adopted until eleven years later, but in the meantime the seal was decided on and was used by the Congress which ran the Government during its incubation.

The vicissitudes undergone by the Great Seal have been many and interesting. In the first place it seems as if a design could never be found which would satisfy everybody's ideas.

The first committee, named while the peals of the Liberty Bell were still ringing in their ears, reported about a month later, on August 10. They had a perfectly gorgeous design. Two, in fact; one for the obverse and one for the reverse of the seal.

At that time a seal was a two sided affair. It was made of wax and hung by cords. which, after passing through the parchment of a treaty or other document, were passed also through the wax, which was then deeply stamped with the double impression of the seal.

This wax was easily marred, so it was the custom to enclose the seal hanging from a document in a metal case, generally of gold or silver. Nowadays even our Government seals are affixed in quite a different manner. What is called a wafer of special paper, very often pinked around the edges, is placed over the paper of the document itself. This adheres to the official paper and the impression of the seal is made through them both.

The design submitted by Messre. Franklin, Adams and Jefferson was extremely interesting, but seems to-day rather queer. In the centre was to be "the arms of the United States." That was all right. The arms of the United States, our familiar shield with the red and white bars and the blue above, appear in the centre of the present seal.

But as we had no arms in 1776-at least none of the heraldic variety-the committee had to design some for us. This was their ides of what would be appropriate: A shield having six quarterings, one to contain a rose which should refer to England, one a thistle for Scotland, one a harp for Ireland, one an imperial eagle for Germany, one a Belgic lion for Holland, and one a fleur de lys for France. These were not intended as delicate tributes to those countries, but as indicating the origin of the colonists who had formed the new nation.

This shield was to be supported on one side by a Goddess of Liberty, on the other dess of Justice. Above was to be the eye of Providence in a triangle surrounded by a glory; that is to say, rays shooting out in all directions.

The motto "E Pluribus Unum" was the one feature of this design which appears on the present seal. Around the border was a circle of small shields, thirteen of them, each bearing the initials of one of the thirteen original colonies. But "M. B." reforred to Massachusetts Bay Colony and "D. C." to Delaware Colony.

On the reverse of this original design there was quite an elaborate picture representing Pharaoh in his chariot, with a crown on his head and a sword in his hand, going through the billows of the Red Sea. The l illows, however, were about to overwhelm him in obedience to a gesture from Moses, standing on the shore under a pillar (called "pillow" by the committee) of fire in a large cloud. The motto for this side was "Reellion to Tyrants Is Obedience to God."

The report submitting this elaborate and stirring design was nevertheless laid on the table by the Congress, and nothing further was done until March 25, 1779, when another committee was appointed. The members of this committee did not report for over a year, and when they did hand in their design it certainly was nothing to be proud of.

They presented two rude drawings, at which we can smile now. Their design was to be executed twice, once in a seal four ipches in diameter and once in another of half that size, the former to be the 'great seal" and the latter the "less seal" of the Government.

Still there was no move to carry out the deas submitted. After a while a third committee was appointed, and then various private individuals became interested, and little by little all these different ideas crystallized into rather definite form. The shield, with its red and white bars and blue chief, as the upper transverse section is called, did not appear until after the adoption of the flag. One by one the eagle, the thirteen stars, the arrows and the olive branch appeared in one form or another.

It was really Charles Tomson, Secretary of Congress, who made the design which was the model of the present seal. His sketch was given to William Barton to be, as we would say, licked into shape. Barton knew a lot about heraldry, and he refined the details of Tomson's idea, but without changing it essentially.

It was this design which was finally adopted by Congress June 20, 1782, and first used, so far as we know, three months later on a commission to Gen. Washington granting him power to arrange with the British for the exchange of prisoners of war. On that document the seal was impressed over a white wafer fastened to the parchment by means of red wax in the upper left hand corner.

We have changed the corner now and use the lower left hand one instead of the upper. That seal was cut on brass in Philadelphia, but it is not known by whom

the work was done. That was the first of our great seals. We have had three new ones since then, and curiously enough no two of the four have

been exactly alike. The first seal was in use fifty-nine years. from 1782 till 1841, when a second one was ordered by Daniel Webster as Secretary of State. The third was cut in 1885, and the present one-which, by the way, was also

cut in Philadelphia-in 1903. While the first seal, therefore, was used

fifty-nine years and the second forty-four years, the third one lasted only eighteen years. According to the rate at which the life of the seal was being shortened the present one won't be good for more than a decade. The explanation of this contracted usefulness probably lies in the increased work which as the country grows the Great Seal has to perform.

On the other hand, since 1874 the Great Seal has been relieved of so many small jobs that it seems as if it ought to be enjoying the leisure of an aristocrat now. Up to that time it was placed on all civil commissions, even those of postmasters. Since then

the system has been changed. Postmasters' commissions bear the seal of the Post Office Department; judiciary officers, marshals and United States Attorneys are appointed under the seal of the Department of Justice; officials of the Interior Department under the seal of that Department, and so on.

At present the Great Seal is affixed "to the commissions of all Cabinet officers and of diplomatic and consular officials nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate; to all ceremonious communications from the President to heads of foreigo Governments; to all treaties, conventions and formal agreements with foreign Powers; to all pardons or commutations of sentence by the President; to offenders who have been convicted before the courts of the United States; to all proclamations by the President, to all exequaturs to foreign consular efficers in the United States who are appointed by the heads of the Governments they represent; to warrants by the President to receive persons surrendered by foreign Governments under extradition treaties, and to all miscellaneous commissions of civil officers appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, whose appointment is not now especially directed by law to be signed

under a different seal." As before said, no two of the four great seals have been exactly alike. Number two had six arrows in the eagle's left claws instead of the thirteen which had been clutched by eagle number one. The bird himself was more graceful in number two, the clouds were less like spit curls, the olive branch bore berries along with its leaves, the outline of the shield was entirely different and so was the border.

In 1885, when number three was to be cut. the Department of State submitted the design to several authorities on heraldry with a view to correcting any faults that might exist. The experts declared the seal to be quite correctly conceived, so the same design was cut, but again there were slight differences. The whole seal was slightly smaller than the present one; the flutter of the scroll was altered; so were the claws and the olive branch.

As the seal is impressed directly on a document, no reverse design is needed. Nevertheless, we have an officially accepted design for this unused reverse.

In its centre is an unfamiliar pyramid, to signify strength and duration; over it an eye (of Providence) in a triangle surrounded by a glory; on the base of the pyramid the date 1776 in Roman capitals, and a Latin motto above and another below. In the report accompanying the design of the present seal it was said that of the national colors the white represented purity and innocence, the red hardiness and valor, the blue vigilance, perseverance and justice. The fact that the escutcheon is borne on the breast of the eagle without the usual supports on either side denoted that the United States should rely "on their own virtue alone."

The Great Seal is not operated by a spring lever, as is the case with many private seals. It is mounted on a solidly built wooden base about three feet high and perhaps three by four feet on top.

The stamp is held in position by a solid curved iron arm and is operated b a cross arm of steel with a pair of terminal balls weighing 70 pounds. The wooden cover, which turns back on hinges, is always locked when the seal is not to be used. The key-there is only one-is in the possession of the Chief of the Bureau of Appointments, in whose private office the Great Seal is kept

WIRE FENCES FOR TELEPHONES Used by Signal Corps in Directing Military Manacuvres.

From the Washington Post "In the West and Southwest, where there are long stretches of unbroken wire fences, these wires are frequently used to convey telephone messages from one point to another," said Capt. John G. Souder of San Antonio Tex., here on business before the departments.

'In some localities the fence wires are converted into regular telephone lines, with permanent equipment for practical use. These ines are often from ten to thirty miles long, and are a great convenience to people of the

ranches The United States Signal Corps is well trained in the use of wire fences for telephone purposes In the military manœuvres that take place in the ranch region the Signal Corps plays in important part in directing the movement of the troops by improvised telephones

"In some localities where the country is rough or heavily wooded it is impossible to convey the signals from one point to another by the usual methods of flags or other visual signals. It is then the telephone is brought into play

"Each detachment of Signal Corps men is equipped with a field telephone attachment. t requires the work of but a minute or two to connect this attachment with a fence wire and to get into direct communication with headquarters.

"The use of the fence wire for telephone communication obviates the necessity of constructing temporary field telephone lines by the Signal Corps. It sometimes happens that a little difficulty is encountered in using the wires on account of some poor connection or break, but it usually does not take long to discover and remove the cause of the trouble.

"On some of the big ranches straight lines of wire fence fifty to seventy-five miles long are frequently found. These afford excellent opportunity for military field service. As a matter of necessity all ranch fences must be kept in good repair. To do this ience riders are constantly employed.

OLDEST CHURCH ORGAN

Found on Island of Gothland and in Ex-

cellent State of Preservation. From the Youths' Companion. In the Baltic Sea, forty miles from the mainland, lies the Swedish island Gothland, a Mecca for students of early Gothic architecture. In Wisby alone, the chief town of the island, with its population of \$,000 souls, may be studied what remains of no less than ten churches, some of which date from the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The oldest of them is the Church of the Holy Ghost, completed about 1046.

Prof. Hennerberg, director in a German music school, and especially interested in the study of mediæval organs, visited fiftynine churches in Gothland, and in a little village called Sundre came upon the remnant of what is unquestionably the oldest known organ in existence. The case alone has survived the fret of seven centuries, the holes for pedals and manuals are placed as in modern instruments, and inside one can see the chamber for the bellows and judge of their action; the exterior is adorned with paint

ings dating from about 1240. When this ancient instrument could no longer serve its original purpose it was used as a sacristy, and for the safeguard of hely vessels and vestments was kept in careful hence its excellent preservation to

POEMS WORTH READING.

The Pine Tree. There's a pine tree on a hillton In a country far away. Where all the breezes rise and drop in the rhythm of their play

And a streamlet winding slowly the valley just below Lends its measures sweet and lowly To the tall pine's stateller flow.

Whether skies of winter darkened.

Or the brooding summer smiled Came a little maid who hearkened By those mingled strains begulled. All that worldly lore has brought her May evantsb-may decay-But the songs the pine tree taught her. These shall never pass away.

ADA FOSTER MURRAY. Sam Folsom's Four Horse Truck Sava Uncle lke at Joe Binn's store, Whar we was sorty loppin' An' Descon Pennington had jest

Come in, his face a moppin', "You know," says Ike, "that four hoss truck Sam Folsom's be'n a-buyin'! Weighs plump two ton ef 't weighs an ounce An', without half a tryin, Kin carry three ton, good, o' stuff, Jest what it was a luggin' On of Swamp Hill road yistiddy,

With all four hosses tuggin'. "Th' ain't a crack'ner double pair Owned nowhar, I'm a thinkin', But when that wagon in the mud Clean to its hubs went sinkin' Stock still it stopped 'em in the road En if a wall was in it An' they had gone a bangin' up

With both the'r heads ag'in is. "You've see that spindlin' city chap Ez stops with Widder Russell? Don't look ez if he had a speck ' grit or mite o' muscle Yit he comes along an' says to Sam "Th' ain't but one thing to it-Them horses they can't draw that truck,

But jest you watch me do it!

"B'gosh, he done it! Easy, too!

An' quicker'n I-

Cut in, all flery, at this p'int Of Uncle Isaac's speakin' shouts, "Ike Stratton, have a care! Like sin, you sartin try us! Thuz danger 'neath a roof with you! Hamember Ananiasi' "The city striplin' drawed that truck

While me an' Sam was gasin'. An' took the horses with it too,' Says Ike. "It was amazin'! "Twas drawed on natterni on life The price he wouldn't name it, But Sam he took it home with him. I guess he's goin' to frame it."

A Song for May. From the Catholic Standard and Times.

A wake! arise! gray dreams and slumber scorning.
For every dormer looking on the east
Is portal to the banquet hall this morning.
Where May doth call her lovers to her feast.
Lot as it were a piedging goblet, glowing
In her rose fingers over which do run
The golden bubbles poured to overflowing.
Up. up. she lifts the sun!
Oh. drink with her this airy wine of spring.
That from her bands her winged breezes bring.
Sweet philtre for all hearts on earth to be!
Hark! how the birds are drunk with it and sing:
Mark where the flushed winds spill it on the sea.
How, lapping it, the waves go carolling;
See how dull earth, meek flower and stately tree,
Where'er the breezes haste it,
Rejoice that they may taste it.
This draught of costasy?

O lovers all, in this sweet wine. From the Catholic Standard and Time.

D lovers all, in this sweet wine piedge you and your loves and mine— Up! up! with you, And drink the May with met

T. A. DALY.

Cynical Song of the Noon Hour. Watch the wagging of the jaws. Busy faws! What a world of work they do, and all without a How they're crunching, crunching, crunching

In the restaurant at poon! While the office gang, a lunching, With their weapons tabbling, punching-Knife and fork, a busy tune-Keeping time, time, time

In a sort of hungry rhyme To the endless mastication that so regularly draws Up and down the jaws, jaws, Jaws, Jaws, Jaws-Up and down with restless energy the jawa.

See the watter with his paws-Grimy paws! gnaws! How they clatter, clatter, clatter

From the mystic realm belowusty plate and loaded platter-How he slams 'em-how they spatter As he rushes to and fro. Keeping time, time, time in a sort of crazy rhyme

To the bidding of the eaters while he fills their empty maws-See the waiter with his paws, Paws, paws, paws— See the waiter with his silver seeking paws!

See the man who gets the cash-Ob, the cash! There he sits behind his desk, inscrutable and brashi How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle On the counter when they pour! How the pretty quarters twinkle, Disappearing-how they sprinkle. Sliver shower in the drawer-

Keeping time, time, time In a pleasing, teasing rhyme the endless contributions of the purchasers of

Oh, the cash, cash, cash, cash, Cash, cash, cash-Oh, the quickly disappearing, precious cash! E. T. NELSON.

The Gentle Camera Hunter. Sir Hunter, pause and let us hear What you have bagged to-day. What prancing buck or shrinking "dear You've snapshot under way.

What I have bagged !-- the sport was fine. As easily see you may Behold an heiress first in line, And then ber flance.

Next comes the murd'rer Paddy Glynn, And here's his wife, to boot And now the parties who are in

A breach of promise suit. And here-ah, here's the Countess who Was caught with mien phiegmatic

A lifting goods, as girls will do-She looks aristocratic But, lo! the peach-just take a look The lady nov-e-list Who wrote that naughty, naughty book

That never will be missed. Ah, yes, the sport was fine to day, The game was out in force, Although I much regret to say

I've nothing on divorce. Hunter, thanks!-thou'st shown, brave man Tis nobler far to dare To wing a passing scandal than To shoot at bird or bear.

WILLIAM WALLACE WETTELOCK.

Spring Fever. I chanced to hear to-day Spring breathe across the Bay Messages of the May. Fragrant and tireless Nature, it seems, is wise On what Marconi tries-

Her people patronize, Like us, the Wireless Spring was relating what's Doing in country lots: Violets! Fragrant dots In the green valleys: Buds out on all the trees Bird song and hum of bees: might encounter these

In leafy alleys. After that, work no more! Banking became a bore: Possibly too I swore. Market and Ticker. stocks, Bonds-the whole sad crew Made me so beastly blue Sicker and sicker.

"Here, Boy!" said I, "my grip! I mean to take a trip Just for my liver. Jersey will do for mel Violets there-and She! That's where I want to be-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Who wrote the lingle about Tweedledum and his fellow Dee, and what were the circumstances?

H. T. WARNEG. It is not altogether certain; at least the fact remains that one editor of Swift and one of Pope have dalmed the glory for their respective poets. But on the printed record the documentary evidence

is spread in favor of John Byrom in his poem "On the Feuds Between Handel and Bononeini; Some say, compar'd to Hononcini, That Mynheer Handel's but a ninny; is scarcely fit to hold a candle

Strange all this difference smould be Twist Tweedledum and Tweedledee Not a great poet, he yet remains, in general without the benefit of his name, in the store of popular wisdom to which he has contributed at least three commonplaces, the other two being the familiar similes "as clear as a whistle" and "as plain as a It may be that he is to be credited also with a fourth adage, "not fit to hold a candle," yet in its use in the citation just made it has the appearance of a familiar proverb introduced to make the

obvious rhyme, although no earlier record has been

Is contraption a word? It is a word: as such it finds its place in the Stand ard Dictionary; but it has not yet obtained full currency; it is a colloquialism. Bartlett notes its use as an Americanism. With greater particularity Mr. Farmer's "Americanisms" puts it into pillory as "a genuine American vulgarism applied to newfangled, peculiar thing or idea." Yet the same author, collaborating with Healey in the "Dictionary of Slang and Colloquial English," seems in this later regard it as English of England. definition is "small articles, tools and so forth," and to this has appended the date 1838 as representing the first period of its currency. The Standard's erivation from con and trap seems rather a con cession to the mechanics of etymology than an

Within a year was printed news of a mixture which, added to coal or ashes, will make a great saving in the cost of fuel.

HANS ISLEER. A man preferred the claim that by a process based upon a secret formula of his own composition he ould make ashes into a free burning source of heat A good natured master of forges permitted a test in his plant. It was found that ashes will not burn. the chemical formula would not work on actual grate bars and the users of coal still have to replenish their bins and put the ashes out in time to be disposed of quite as always.

Can you give the derivation of the term "time born gambler"? I have heard it used to designate one who operates on a small scale and with questionable methods.

L. S. UPTON. The word has not yet reached the stage of record in the dictionaries of slang and colloquial speech. Yet its age entitles it to a certain degree of respectability, for it is as old as the bonanza days on the Comstock lode. Twenty years ago in San Francisco it was attributed to the Hon. James Orndorff, who was dealing on the lode. It was said that he remarked to a player at the game who was playing small: "You're cheaper than a tin horn." When the question was referred to Orndorff for settlement he replied, "Pears to me I did say something like that, anyhow that's what he was, he was nothing but a tip born."

What is the origin of the phrase "even 'steven, and does it make evenness more even? Charo Flackonts. Out of this simple collocation of rhyming syllables there had arisen by Dean Swift's time a legend. The Dean, in his letters to Stella, of date January 20.

1710-11, quotes: "Now we are even, quoth Stephen

when he gave his wife six blows for one." When was the ringer scandal in the classic Derby, and what was the horse?

C. T. S. It was in 1844. The first horse in was falsely entered as Running Rein, by The Saddler-Mab, by Duncan Grey; the stewards subsequently proved it to be the four-year-old Maccahaus, by Gladiator, dam by Capstoum, and the name of the horse was later changed to Zanoni. The ringer was dis-

Can you or any of your readers give any informa-tion as to where the poem, of which the following is all we can recall; can be found, or can any of your readers supply the poem entire?

qualified and the race awarded to Col. Peel's Or

Come sing, come along, make no delay.
Come from every nation, and come from every way,
Our land is broad enough, and don't be alarmed.
For Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm.
The great Atlantic Cable, not long since it was laid,
Both Uncle Sam and Johnny Buil thought their
fortunes made.

H. L. T.

it was an aperture in the wall of the Doge's Palace in Venice, the outer end capped by a flo head with open mouth, the inner orifice being in

"Kathleen Mayourneen" appeared in the Metro-olien Magarine (London) in 1837 and bears the gnature "By Mrs. Marion Crawford," Prof. F. Noholis Croues, the composer of the music of "Kathleen Mavoureen," was born in 1803 in Warren street, Filzroy Square, London, and died on August 8, 1886, in Portland, Me. In 1883 Prof. Crouch a his room at the Bradford Hotel in this city made the following starement: "I was at the time in London, and one day in looking through the pages of the Metropolium Magazine, then edited by Capt. Marryat, I came across some words that riveled my attention, and reading them over and over again, resolved, if I could get possession of them, to set them to music. I immediately wrote to the editor, found out that the author of the beautiful words was the wife of a London barrister, and I was presented to the lady by a mutual friend at her residence. She seemed quite pieased at the expressions of delight at her verses and could not understand why to me they should be of so much value or why I should wish to get them to music. I said, "I want the words of the song of yours as my property. In this envelope are Bank of England notes for £30 4150." The lady gave me a receipt for the amount and the song was mine. The music of the song was composed by me in 1879 in Plymouth. England. It was then published by I'Almaine & Co., 30 Soho Square, London, and was first ample me ar a concert given at Plymouth by Mr. E. P. Roe, the publisher of music in the town, and subsequently presented, out and out, by me to his wife, was the publisher of music in the town, and subsequently presented, out and out, by me to his wife, was the publisher of music in the town, and subsequently presented, out and out, by me to his wife, was the publisher of music in the town, and subsequently presented, out and out, by me to his wife, was the publisher of music in the town, and subsequently presented, out and out, by me to his wife, was the publisher of music in the town, and subsequently presented, out and out, by me to his wife.

Mrs. E. P. Roe.

"Since that time I have not received ten cenfs profit from the song, though it has been issued, a this country and in England, by more than thirty publishers and made many independently rich.

"Prof. F. Nicholas Cacuca."

"Mis. Doc., F. R. S.

"New York, Pebruary, J. 183."

"New York, Pebruary 7. 1893,"
So great was the success of "Kathlees Mayour, neem" at the time, a "reply" was published, entitled "Dermod Asthere," which was written by Mrs. Crawford and set to music by Crouch, The poem was also published in the Metropolitan Megazine. The Identity of Mrs. Crawford has never been tenfifely established. I have copies of "Kathleen Mayourneen" which have been attributed to "Mrs. Julia Crawford," "Mrs. Anne Crawford," "Mrs. A. Crawford," "Mrs. A. Crawford," "Mrs. A. Crawford," She is said to have been a native of County Cavan, Ireland, and to have been born about the close of the eighteenth century. She wnote more than 100 songs, besides a great deal of verse for the Metropolitan Magazine, London, 1880-1840. Her autoblography published in this magazine states she was brought up in Wiltshire, but she does not give a single dennite fact about herself. She does not appear in the 'Dictionary of National Heigraphy."

in your issue of Sunday. April 12, the desire was expressed that something be contributed respecting that chapter of negro ministrely having to do with "the first Vankee invasion of England and the capture of the island by the practitioners of them. If a Crow."

with "the first Yankee invasion of England and the capture of the Island by the practitioners of Jump Jim Crow."

I am pleased to respond with a few facts, historically correct though not based on original research by myself.

Negro minstrelsy appears to have come into notice about the year 1871, when Rice, by his performance of "alim Crow." created a sensation in New York. This song being followed by "Jim Along Josey" and other negro melodies.

In 1842 E. P. Christy began in Buffalo with a company of Virginia Minstrels, afterward known as Christy's Minstrels, which company, after perfermances on the road, settled in New York in 1848, where Christy realized a fortune from the rendition of such melodies as "Old Dan Tucker."

Stop dat Knocking. "Rosa Lee" and "Dearest Mae."

These minstrels visited England in the early

"Stop dat Knocking." "Rosa Lee" and "Dearest Mase."

These ministrels visited England in the early '60s and delighted crowded audiences with such sentimental and poetic songs as "Old Folks at Home," "Hazel Dell." "My Old Kentucky Home," "Let Me Kiss Him for his Mother." "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming, and many others.

The entertainments given by this company in London and the large provincial cities were remarkably successful, being patronized by the aristocarcy and the million in large numbers, and consisted of kongs and concerted pieces, with banjo, tambourine and bones.

I have in my possession a volume of "Christy's Ministrels" Songs, "published in London while Christy was there, containing interly seven of his songs, words and pianoferic accompaniment, among which are "Good News from Home," F. S. Glimore: "Camptown Races." S. C. Foster: "Gentle Annie." ditto: "Nelle Was a Lady, ditto; "Rosalie he Fraire Flower," Wurzell: "We are Comin. Sister Mary." E. P. Christy: "Lily Dale." H. S. Thompson: "Let Me Kiss Him for His Mother."

L. O. Emerson, and "Softly Palls the Moonlight." F. Buckley.

Referring to the question of Waller W. Concidin about the 273d Regiment I am led to write to say that my father was the Benjamin Coe Wandelf whom he mentioned. I have his commission as Lieutenant in the 283d Regiment—on November 19, 1888—signed by Gav. William L. Marcy, and as Captain, on September 17, 1841, signed by Gov. William H. Seward; also the printed regimental orders, dated October 2, 1844, issued by Thomas Tate, Colonel, accenting the resignation of Capt. Wandell and sanouncing the appointment of Samuel M. Concidin as Lieutenant. I have too my father's sword, and also the roll book of Company D. of which he was Captain: It has the marks of Thomas Tate, Colonel. — Copcuit, Lieutenant. D, of which he was Capitain. It has the names of Thomas Tate. Colonel: — Copcutt, Lleutenant-Colonel: — Leat, Major. Among the privates of the company were Joseph, Hervey and John W. Conckiin, living at 134 Perry street, and William W. Conckiin, living at 428 Hudson street. The regiment was in the 528 Brigade and the territorial limits of Company D embraced that part of the Ninth Ward bounded by the North River. Bleecker. Charles and Perry streets. My father died in 1887. I have thought that this might be of interest to old New Yorkers as well as to Mr. Conckin who proposed the question. POLITICAL NOTES.

If Bryan becomes almost a certainty at Denver quite a large number of New York delegates to the Democratic national convention intend to remain at home. Their places are to be taken by their alternates. There are Democrats in the delegation so irrevocably opposed to Bryan that they will not place themselves in the position where under the unit rule they may be compelled to vote for his nomination

"Speaking of hard times," said a Demoeratic politician vesterday, "you will note that in New York county alone 500 liquor saloons have already refused this year to renew their licenses. These licenses cost \$1,200 a year It was further stated that all told there are

1.000 liquor saloons in New York city, that is, the five boroughs making up the city, and that 6,000 of them are owned or controlled by brewers, and that it is the brewers, feeling the hard times, who have refused to renew the licenses for 500 of the saloons.

Senator Alfred R. Page of the Nineteenth New York district is not to return to Albany next winter, according to good Republican information yesterday; and it was added that Senator Page at the proper time is to issue the announcement that he does desire a renomination. The other end of the story is that the Republicans of the Senate district do not see their way clear to give Mr. Page a renomination

President McGowan of the Board of Aldermen, acting Mayor in Mayor McClellan's absence, represented the city at the great Catholic parade a week ago. Mr. McGowan, as acting Mayor, stood beside Cardinal Logue and Archbishop Farley, and of course was attired on that occasion like any other gentleman, frock coat, silk hat, &c., and yet a bystander was heard to ask:

"Is that gentleman with the white hair and white mustache a monsignor? The stranger, it was learned, came from amden, N. J.

If Patrick J. Mara, now looked upon the new Democratic boss of Queens county, good to the Tammany folks he may be made State committeeman to succeed Joseph Cassidy. The foregoing statement was made by Tammany people yesterday, and they added that one of the prospective changes among up-State Democratic committeemen is that Bruyn Hasbrouck of New Paltz is to succeed George B. Van Valkenburgh

With Daniel F. Cohalan already slated for Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall to succeed W. Rourke Cockran and to be Democratic national committeeman for the State succeed Norman E. Mack, it was said yesterday that Cockran feels his retirement very keenly; also that the refusal to renominate him for Congress is another unhappy episode with him. However, there were Democrats hereabout who had a story to the effect that if President Roosevelt is renominated Cockran will take the stump for him, and in the event of the President's reelection Cockran is to have a foreign mission. deed, this story was guaranteed by those who said their sources of information as to White House affairs was good.

It was recalled that it was Cockran who wrete the resolutions adopted by Tammany after the Portsmouth treaty of peace between Russia and Japan was signed praising Roosevelt as a peacemaker, and at the dinner of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick shortly afterward Cockran's speech was eulogistic in the highest degree of Roosevelt. Not even the oldest living member of Tammany can recall when the organization, save on the occasion mentioned, has patted a Republican Presiden on the back.

Speaking of Roosevelt and Tammany as illustrated in the Cockran resolutions, it may not be out of place to state that in August 1904. President Roosevelt said to one of his visitors at Oyster Bay: "Wait till election day and you'll find that I have more friends in Tammany Hall than many people dream " True enough, Tammany's vote for Parker melted prodigiously, just as the President foretold.

The word has gone out among the Demo crats of New York State that Augustus Van Wyck, one of the delegates from the Seventh Congress district, is to be the State's member on the committee on resolutions at the Denver convention. Mr. van Wyck had this place also in 1900 at Kansas City ceeded David B. Hill, who had held the place in a number of national conventions. In 1904, the Perker convention, Mr. Hill resumed his place as the State's member on this important committee.

It is now known that what are spoten of as exceedingly handy men will be named for the committee on credentials both in the Republican and the Democratic national conventions. To be a member of a national committee on credentials one must believe thoroughly the maxim "Here all friendship It is superseded by the practical ceases. political maxim "What is there in it for me?

There are some pretty miserable storie affoat as to the amount of "pressure" exerted or attempted to be exerted on Alderman Flanagan to cast his vote for Joseph Cassidy to succeed Bermel as President of the Borough of Queens. Flanagan resisted all over-But he had better tell the story him-

For the first time in seventeen years the Pemocrats of Port Chester elected several days ago their village ticket. Port Chester is the home of William L. Ward, Republican national committeeman for the State. Democrats arguing yesterday from the standpoint of this election believed that there was a good chance to elect on Tuesday a State Senator in the Niagara-Orleans district. Yet the Republicans down this way were confident that Wallace, the Republican candidate for Senator, would have an easy victory The Court of Appeals has decided that the present Senate is a de facto body, but then the Senate is the judge of the qualifications of its own members, and there will be no trouble, it was stated, over the seating of the Sentor elected from the Orleans-Niagara

Of the various Presidential candidates, Republican and Democratic, now in the publiq eye, six of them were newspaper then-Fairbanks, Bryan, Taft, Gov. Johnson, Secretary Cortelyou and Senator Philander C

Knox. The hotel men of New York city and of other big cities in the country are very much interested in the plank concerning prohibition to be adopted by the Republicans at Chicago, by the Democrats at Denver and by the Hearst people at Chicago. In other words they fear that these three national conventions may take cognizance in some radical manner in their platforms of the wave of prohibition which has been sweeping over the country for the last two or three years. Most of the hotel men say that they are doing just about one-third of the business that they did a year ago.

They, however, are no different from other business men in their apprehension over the doings of politicians. At no time since war days, it is asserted, have the business men of the country looked upon politicians with deeper feelings of anger and dismay. It is the opinion of most husiness men one talks with that the average politician, whether he be a President, a Governor or a State or national legislator, knows little or nothing concerning the great problems of practical business life.

Balzac and the Thief.

From the Westminster Gazette. A story, said to be new, of Balzac is related by a French contemporary. A burglar gained admission to Balzac's house and was soon at work by the light of the moon, at the lock of the secretaire in the novelist's chamber. Balzac was asleen at the time, but the movements of the intruder aroused him. he burglar, who was working most industriously, paused A stridert laugh arrested his operations and he beheld by the moonlight the rovelist sitting up in bed, his sides aching with laughter.

"What is it that makes you merry?" demanded the burglar.

"I laugh," replied the author of "Pere Goriot." "to think that you should come in the night without a lantern to search my secretaire for money when I can never find any there in broad daylight." by a French contemporary. A burglar

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS. Auction Pinochie. A. B. says: If A leads a ciub king through B, who holds the ten and small ones but not the ace, must B put on the ten?

Yes. It is the rule that the second player must head the trick if he can. Some players make this the rule only when trumps are led, but that is not as good a game as when the player must cove everything, and all modern players insist on head ing every card played, because it makes the game o much more scientific and enables one to place the cards with great accuracy.

M. E. T. wants to know what the chances are of getting a meld of 300 if he bids on the A. K. Q. J. 9 of spades and the K. Q. J. 10, 9 of diamonds with five other worthless cards, when there are three cards in the widow.

As either the ten of spades or the ace of diamonds vill fill out the hand for 200 in trumps, 20 marriage and 40 pinochle, but no more, it is hard to see where the meld of 300 is to come from, although a bid of 300 on these cards is a fair risk. There are four cards that will fit the hand and there are thirty cards out against the three in the skat, so it is not quife 215 to 1 against finding one or other of the cards wanted. In addition to this there is always the chance of finding something else that will fill out the hand in another way. In auction pinochle with a widow it is the player who takes a chance that usually wins in the long run, provided he does

G. S. says: In your answer to O. H. E., April 25 you give the meld as worth 370. Is not this 20 too much! If the frimps are worth 190, as you always give it, how do you get more than 300 out of it when the three other kings and queens are added! The kings are worth 80, the two plain marriage 20 each and then 60 queens. That is 180 to add to the 190 for the trumps. The usual way to count this hand is to meld the four kings and queens first for 230 and then to add the trump sequence for

G. H. says: In any variety of pinochie, two of three hand, may a player who has led a card take it back if it has not been covered? That depends on which player makes the lead If it is the bidder in auction pinochie he does no harm to any one but himself if he leads the wrong card, and if it is not covered he certainly cannot gain any advantage by taking it back, as he has no partner to benefit by the performation. But if one of the two who are opposed to the bidder should lead a card that card must be played, as he has shown his partner a card in his hand, which against the rules. In two hand, where the player has no partner, the position is the same as if th bidder had led in auction pinochie. In both cases the play must be regarded simply as a slip, just like the dealer's announcement of a trump in bridge and his immediate correction of it before either

A. J. N. says: Just to convince a doubter that sequence of trumps from the ace to the nine inclusive in three hand. Two hundred. The marriage is worth 40, then the A J 10 can be added for the 150 and finally the

adversary has time to act on it.

dix for ten.

L. H. says: A has bld 500 and makes spad trumps. He holds four kings and queens and the A J 10 of spades. How many must be get in care The meld is worth 370, as just explained to G.S.; so that he has to make 130 to cover his bid.

Bridge. C. S. L. says: A dealt and made it ne trumps. Dummy laid down a hundred aces. What are the odds against such an answer? it is hard to say what the odds would be against the combination of a dealer that would go no trumps without an ace in his hand and a dummy that would lay down four of them; but the odds against the dummy's holding four aces, regardless of the dealer's declaration, are 114 to 1. who think it a very wonderful thing for dummy to hold four aces should remember that he is due to hold them about once every hundred and fifteen deals.

S. K. says: What is the limit of the score at which it is considered justifiable to make a defensive spade?

If what is meant is how far advanced must the adversaries he to make it not worth while to hold them back with an original spade make, the answer would probably be when their score is such as to make it probable that they will go out on the next deal anyhow. As the average value of the deal below the line has been found to be about twelve points, it would seem to be useless to make it a de fensive spade when the adversaries' score was such that twelve points on the next deal would put them out. Something is to be said in favor of making them go out on their own deal, of course; bu the important thing is for the dealer to get a game in if he can, and if he makes it an original spade he practically makes the winning of the game for his own side an impossibility.

Cribbage. L. H. R. says: After two cards have been pegged as a pair, can either of them be used as part of a run in the play of the hand? Yes, provided the run is made from the last one played, as all cards played before the pair are barred from any run. For instance: The cards fall 2 3 4 4 5. When the first player has pegged his run of three and the second player has pegged his pair of fours, the next card played, a five, does make any run, because the duplicate f stops it; but if a six comes next or another three it will make a run with the second of the fours.

M. B. L. wants to know how to count a hand of two fives, a four and a six, with a five for a starter. If the three fives are laid out in a triangle—each side will make a pair, 6 holes. The four and six will combine with each of the fives to make a run of three, 9 more holes. Each of these runs is a ofteen and the three fives by themselves are ofteen, which gives us 8 more holes, so that the hand is worth twenty three.

E. G. C. says: In three hand A plays a nine, B seven and C an eight. A says "go" after C ha pegged his run of three, and B plays another sever for which he pegs five holes. C bets there is nothin to it but the thirty-one, but B insists as the card lie, face up, there is a run of three. What lies face up has nothing to do with it. It is the order in which the cards fall. If we go back from B's last play we find the order is 7, 8, 7, 9, so

that there is no run, and all that B can peg is the two holes for making thirty-one instead of a go. Skat, M. E. J. says: If the player leads and one of his adversaries revokes, what does the player score? If there is no penalty except to let the player score his game as won, when it would have been won in any case, it would seem as if there were no penalty for revoking.

A revoke penalty is supposed to cover what the player might have made had the revoke not occurred, but it should not give him points which were never in the hand. If the player thinks that could not only have won his game but have made schneider but for the revoke he can have the revoke corrected and play the hand over again from that point on, but this is a very tiresome business, on account of all the cards being known, and is

therefore seldom or never insisted on. The present Skat League laws are very loose i many details, especially in the matter of the revoke penalty. They say that if a player revokes the bidder wins his game, and the revoking player i charged with the loss of it, so that the third player, who is not in fault, shall not suffer. But in practice this gives the bidder double the value of his game. because he puts down, let us say, 24 points wor and the revoking player is charged with 24 points While this makes the third man even. the bidder 48 points for a game that was never

worth more than 24. In all other games in which there is any form of partnership the one has to suffer for the other partner's mistakes, and it should be so in skat. It is to be hoped that when the annual congress meets in New York June 22 next the laws will be amended.

R. M. G. says: A has seven trumps but no jacks. It is his lead. What are the chances that he drops the four jacks in two rounds? If the question is put in another way, what are the odds against one player having three jacks, the answer is, 12 to 1. Unless one player has three jacks the jacks must be split, or one must be in

the skat, or two of them may be in the skat.

is a question of being able to make schneider, for instance, by having both players follow suit to the trump led twice, that involves the jacks being split and no jack in the skat. The odds against this position are about 2 to 2. Chess. B. R. S. says: In your answer to T. R. on April 19 you apparently accept his statement that there is such a thing as "fool's mate" in four moves in chess. As I cannot find any mention such a thing in any book on chess, will TEE Sun be good enough to explain the mate?

There are several variations of fool's mate, all based on White's taking advantage of the initial error of Black in selecting P-KB sas his first move Anticipating this, White opens with P-K 3. Black plays P-KB 3. White plays Q-Kt 4, and Black attacks with the rook's pawn. White lets the queen go and moves B-Q S, followed by B-Kt 6, mate.

Poker. A. M. H. wants to know when the 11 and 12 spots were first added to the regular pack. In 1894. The year before an American manufacturer of playing oards was crossing the ocean and he observed in an eight hand game there were never cards enough to fill the draw when all stayed, and that in many cases a man got back the card he had thrown out. This led him so put the sixty card pack on the market in the following year.

H. L. J. says: A asked B how many cards he frew and B refused to tell. A then asked the dealer low many cards B had drawn, whereupon B in-isted that the dealer had no right to give the in formation. A beta he is entitled to have the inforsisted that the formation. A bets he is entitled to have the formation from some source or he cannot bet his hand mation from some source or he cannot bet his hand

A should have paid attention at the time B asked for cards. B need not give the information unless he chooses to, and the dealer is not allowed to give it. Besides which there is no certaint that the dealer's memory of B's draw is correct.

EQUINE SPORT OF THE BLUES. Oxford and Cambridge Steeplechases Furnish Amusing Incidents.

No branch of sport indulged in by the menof Oxford and Cambridge has been productive of more amusing incident and daredevil episodes than steeplechasing, and perhaps it is the one contest among the Blues the least known to Americans. The authentic history of the sport dates back to the early '40s, but there are hints that it was practised even much earlier. In the latter part of the '50s and early '60s it was discontinued, but it was revived in 1863 at Cottenham by the Hon. Henry Wentworth Fitzwilliam and Nathan de Rothschild, who presented a silver cup to be run for annually over three miles of fair hunting country. That year saw a brilliant victory for the Light Blues, as they secured first, second and third. J. M. Richardson, the famous cricketer of those days, was one of the jookeys, and Charley Wilder of Caius and Homer Page of Trinity were among the

riders. Prior to the revival the race was held at Aylesbury, and touching it in those days a string of quaint yarns are told. One of the earliest relates to the prowess of Prof. Neate of political economy at Oxford and at one time a member of Parliament for the city. Because of something that happened in connection with one of the races the dons and heads of the college decided to abolish the race, but old Neate stood up for the undergraduates. To show his contempt for their objection he entered his own horse for one of the races and named him Vice-Chancellor.

The day of the race came and with it a lot of curiosity as to who would ride Neate's horse. To the astonishment of everybody the professor himself appeared mounted with top hat and black trousers and without his coat. He was loudly cheered as he cantered to the post, and there was a shout as the horses broke away at the start. The professor took several fences well, but he met trouble at the famous water jump. The horse refused, but Neate was game, and swinging him around drove him at it again, when horse and man fell into the water and the rider diappeared, top hat and all, underneath the surface. He was a sight when he came out, but he consoled himself by saying that he had made his protest against the heads of the college and vindicated the rights of the students.

What steeplechasing was like in those days is gathered from some details given by Thormanby in the Sportsman. I reby Thormanby in the Sportsman. I re-member, he says, a very severe race be-between rival jockeys who rode two well between rival Jockeys who rode two well known chasers. Approaching the last fence in the winning field together at a terrific pace, both rose simultaneously at the single fence. They cannoned in the air, and the pace they went threw both horses down, the riders being thrown with great force in opposite directions. They were carried away insensible, but one of them after some time so far recovered that he was able to remount and struggle on, just managing to stagger between the

just managing to stagger between the flags and be declared a winner."

The meeting of 1848 was marked by an unusual incident. A match was ridden between A. W. Meyers on a mare called Clarger the agent as the party of the party lementina against a horse called Meyers came near the dreaded brook fairly flunked, and in the middle of the grass field threw himself off his mount and left the mare to herself. An undergraduate named Burton sizing up the situation made a rush for the mare, caught her and vaulted into the saddle, and sending her plumb at the brook she took it in splendid style. Burton kept going with Clementina, and as they turned for home drew level with Sailor. They raced like mad to the finish and Bur-

ton won, but though he made the weight the race was given to Sailor.

It was at Aylesbury that the Marquis of Waterford, the "mad Marquis," indulged in one of the freaks which made his and famous. On one cocasion he brought a famous. On one occasion he brought a horse up stairs into the dining room, had him led around the table and gave him some apples and biscuits, which he ate. When they came to get the horse down he refused to budge, and in the end had to be blindfolded before he walked down the

Some time afterward an Oxford gra on being told of the affair turned to old Charlie Symonds and said: "I believe the little gray would come up this or any other stairs." It was asked if a trial might be, made, and consent being granted went two or three choice spirits to the stable yard. A lumbering noise was heard on the stairs and presently in walked the gallant gray. After being led around the table the gray. After being led around the table the horse, held by a halter, was induced to jump over the backs of a couple of chairs. J. Leech Manning, a sporting man of the neighborhood, said he would undertake to

ride him over the dinner table. The dinner was still in progress, the third The dinner was still in progress, the third course being consumed and the decanters of wine going around. No sooner said than Manning jumped on the barebacked horse, and taking a tight hold of the halter rode him back into a corner of the room, which was about 40 feet long by 22 feet wide. In order to give him a fair chance the table was slued around. Manning struck the horse with his heels and with a slap on the needs sent him flying over. Then he turned norse with his heels and with a slap on the neck sent him flying over. Then he turned the horse around and jumped him back again. A noted clergyman of the North, who first mentioned the feat, attempted it after Manning. The horse just cleared the table, but caught one of his heels in the edge and pulled the clear over smeaking the edge and pulled the cloth over, smashing the plates and glasses. Of course a dozen others emulous of fame wanted to try, but ther, and there a veto was put upon any

further attempts at table riding.

In the old days at Aylesbury the last fence in the course was a "double," and to most animals absolutely unjumpable. Once a horse named Vanish was so distressed that although he managed to jump the first hedge and land on the bank he could scarcely stand, and some bystanders assisted him into the second ditch, where the rider dismounted, making a slow canter between the flags, and he won the race. The second horse then appeared on the scene, was pushed into the first ditch, and fell utterly beaten on the landing. After a few minutes he rose and riderless got into the second ditch, whence with great difficulty he will be tooken requires while was pulled out, his jockey mounting, while three men on each side propped up the horse, but he managed to wabble to the finish and make second. No other horse

finish and make second. No other horse was in sight although twelve started.

Then the crowd, both on horse and afoot, spied old John Brown of Tring, who was in the race and who quit half a mile from home. Somebody said: "Muster Brown, there ain't being anybody claiming 10 for the third place." "If that's the case then there and being all the third place." "If that's the case then till have a try," said John. He rode back with some friends about half a mile, where he left off, and set his horse going again. The animal having recovered his wind came at the terrible double, got safely over and finished. Brown called on his friends and missed that he had fairly got the course and passed between the winning flags. He claimed the 10 for third money and is

was awarded to him by the judges.

First Visit to School at 80 Findlay correspondence Columbus Despatch Although 80 years old and past Mrs. John Harris of Bluffton yesterday paid her first "isit to any school. Her education, which is said to be a good one, was secured through her own efforts.

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